

R E M A R K S

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Examiner's allowance of claim 45 and the Examiner's indication of the allowability of the subject matter of claims 6-15, 19-28, 30-37 and 40-41 are respectfully acknowledged. These claims, however, have not been rewritten in independent form at this time since, as set forth in detail hereinbelow, it is respectfully submitted that their parent claim 1, as amended, also recites allowable subject matter.

THE CLAIMS

Claims 1 and 42 have been amended to clarify the feature of the code reading apparatus and entertainment system of the present invention whereby the randomness providing section provides the outcome of the code reading operation of the reading section with randomness, so that the output of the output section, which is based on the outcome of the code reading operation, is varied by the randomness provided by the randomness providing section.

In addition, independent claim 43 has been amended to clarify the feature of the recording medium of the present

invention whereby the data recorded as the optically readable code includes output information to be output and a plurality of pieces of information to be used for providing the output information with randomness, and to clarify that when the data recorded as the optically readable code is read by a code reading apparatus, the output information is output in a varied manner according to one of the pieces of information for providing the randomness which is selected from the plurality of pieces of information.

Still further, independent claim 46 has been amended in a similar manner to clarify that the data recorded as the optically readable code includes output information to be output and a program for handling program parameters to provide the output information with randomness, and to clarify that when the data recorded as the optically readable code is read by a code reading apparatus, the program parameters are varied to vary operation of the program and to vary an output of the output information with randomness.

It is respectfully submitted that the amendments to the claims are clarifying in nature and that no new issues have been raised which require further consideration on the merits and/or a new search. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the amendments to the claims be approved and entered under 37 CFR 1.116.

THE PRIOR ART REJECTION

Claims 1, 4, 5, 16-18, 29, 38, 39, 42-44 and 46 were rejected under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by USP 5,481,103 ("Wang"), and claims 2-3 were rejected under 35 UC 103 as being obvious in view of the combination of Wang and USP 5,396,054 ("Krichever et al"). These rejections, however, are respectfully traversed with respect to the claims as amended hereinabove.

According to the present invention as recited in clarified amended independent claims 1 and 42, a code reading apparatus and entertainment system are provided in which a randomness providing section provides the outcome of a code reading operation of a reading section with randomness, so that the output of the output section, which is based on the outcome of the code reading operation, is varied by the randomness provided by the randomness providing section.

And according to the present invention as recited in clarified amended independent claims 43 and 46 a recording medium is provided on which an optically readable code is recorded whose data is output in a varied manner to be output with randomness. More specifically, according to the present invention as recited in clarified amended independent claim 43, the data recorded as the optically readable code includes output information to be output and a plurality of pieces of information to be used for providing the output information with randomness. And according

to the present invention as recited in clarified amended independent claim 46, the data recorded as the optically readable code includes output information to be output and a program for handling program parameters to provide the output information with randomness.

Thus, according to the present invention as recited in each of clarified amended independent claims 1, 42, 43 and 46 (and allowed independent claim 45), a reading apparatus or a recording medium for a reading apparatus are provided which enable output information to be output with randomness in a varied manner each time the optically readable code is read and re-read. That is, the information output from reading a code according to the claimed present invention is not uniquely defined so that the claimed present invention can provide a surprise to the operator each time a code reading operation is performed. As a result, a more enjoyable and exciting experience for the operator is achieved. And therefore, the claimed present invention provides a great potential for applicability to entertainment systems such as game machines and/or to educational equipment.

As pointed out in the Amendment filed September 8, 2003, Wang merely discloses a sequence of data encoded in packets which is parceled into a number of data units, and that each packet (code) is allowed to be located at random by providing each packet with an address portion identifying the position of the

data unit relative to the original sequence of data and a data portion representative of information as to the total number of packets. That is, Wang discloses a packet bar code whose data packets may be located at random. And with the packet bar code of Wang, the randomly located packets are scanned, sorted according to their addresses, and when the number of packets assembled equals the total number of packets, the original sequence of data is output.

It is respectfully pointed out, however, that the packet bar code of Wang only enables output of the original sequence of data, just like a conventional coding and reading apparatus. That is, the packet bar code of Wang is designed only to output the same information each time it is read and re-read.

By contrast, according to the claimed present invention, output information is output with randomness in a varied manner each time the optically readable code is read and re-read.

It is respectfully submitted that the randomness of the locations of the codes in Wang is entirely different from the randomness of the information outputs as according to the claimed present invention. And it is respectfully submitted that Wang does not at all disclose, teach or even remotely suggest outputting information with randomness, as according to the claimed present invention.

Krichever et al, moreover, has merely been cited for the disclosure of a hand-held code reading apparatus. And it is respectfully submitted that this reference also fails to disclose, teach or suggest outputting information with randomness, as according to the claimed present invention.


In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present invention as recited in each of amended independent claims 1, 42, 43 and 46, as well as each of claims 2-41 and 44 respectively depending from claims 1 and 43, clearly patentably distinguishes over Wang and Krichever et al, taken singly or in combination, under 35 USC 102 as well as under 35 USC 103.

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Entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,


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